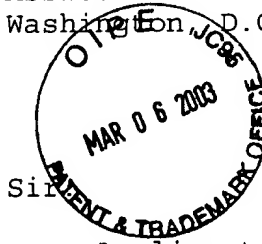


Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231



AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Sir,

Applicants respectfully request a three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated August 30, 2002. Please enter the amendments and remarks provided below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 25 to read as follows:

Fuel tank 16 is a conventional storage tank which is adapted to receive and store compressed gaseous fuel, such as hydrogen gas, at relatively high pressures. In the preferred embodiment, expander 18 is a conventional turbine which selectively receives and which is rotatably driven by pressurized gas delivered from tank 16. Expander turbine 18 is selectively and operatively coupled to motor/generator 76 by use of shaft 80 and to compressor turbine 20 by use of shaft 80, a conventional clutch 84 and a shaft 82 which is coupled to compressor turbine 20. In one alternate embodiment, expander turbine 18 and compressor turbine 20 are connected by a single shaft. When expander turbine 18 and compressor turbine 20 are mechanically coupled together by use of clutch 84, the rotation or torque produced by expander turbine 18 drives compressor turbine 20. This rotation/torque can also be selectively used by the motor/generator to generate electrical energy in a conventional manner. After passing through expander turbine 18, the hydrogen gas is communicated to fuel cell 12 by way of conduits 44, 42, 46 and regulator 22.